

BRAZIL

Situation Report –August 2019



HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Visit of the UN High Commissioner: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, spent four days visiting Brasilia, Boa Vista and Manaus from 15 to 19 August delivering an urgent appeal for increased international engagement, including by financial institutions and development actors, in the communities hosting Venezuelan refugees and migrants. “I am hugely impressed by both operations as examples of an efficient, coordinated, humane and innovative response to address humanitarian needs and promote solutions for Venezuelans”, said Grandi. However, he also called for urgent action “by the federal and local governments, with the support of the civil society and the UN system to address health, education, livelihoods and other critical needs.”

KEY FIGURES

Funding Requirements
RMRP 2019
USD 56.5 Mi

Funding Gap
USD 22,8 Mi
40.4%



Funding Received
USD 25.5 Mi
45.1%

Funding Committed
USD 8.2 Mi
14.5%

Official documentation figures have now been updated up through end of July as follows:

- cumulative number of **refugees/asylum seekers**: 111,607
- cumulative number of **temporary residents**: 87,342

In August, there was an estimated daily average of 744 entries and 114 exits in Pacaraima, with a peak of 1,238 persons entering on 13 August and only 406 persons entering on 12 August. The daily average is 42 per cent higher than the last month of July.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Meeting with local authorities on coordination mechanisms for the emergency response in the State of Pará, north of Brazil: On 21 August, R4V partners co-led a meeting, which brought together the State and Municipal Secretaries of Social Assistance, Labour and Income, the Public Prosecutor’s Office for Labour, and the State and Municipal Secretaries of Health, to discuss a new governance structure for the emergency response in the state. It will be validated and implemented in the coming weeks.

Release of emergency funds for Belém: Federal funds were released by the Ministry of Citizenship to support the opening of a new shelter for 400 refugees and migrants in the city of Belém, Pará State. Partners will provide technical assistance for the construction of the steel structure for the hammock sleeping area.

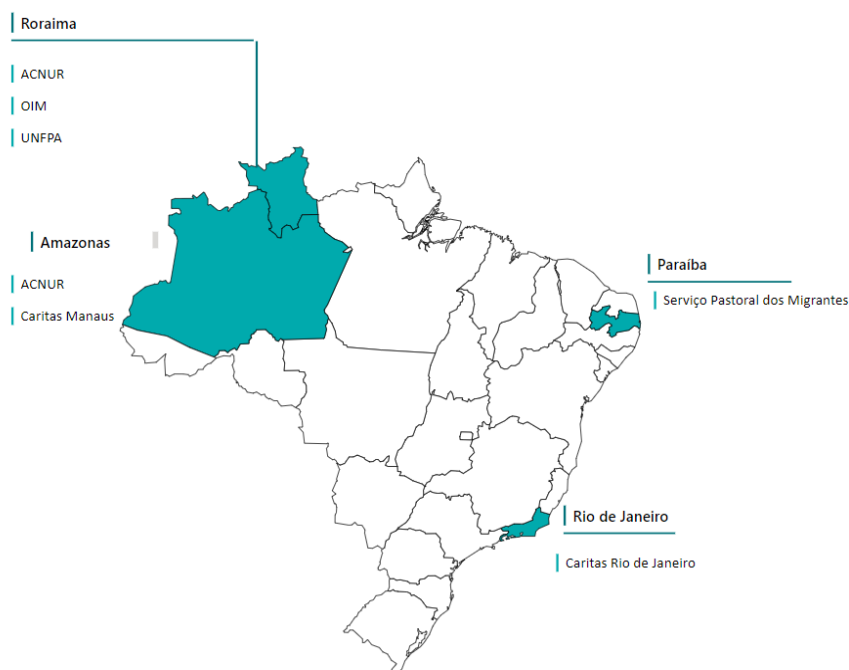
Ministry of Justice’s Ordinance No. 666 and Draft Bill PL-1928 : Partners continued to advocate for the incorporation of safeguards for refugees in the Ministry of Justice’s Ordinance No. 666 and the draft bill PL-1928 proposed by the Senate. Partners’ objective is to also ensure that the two bills/laws are in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention, especially on issues related to admission to the territory and access to the asylum procedure.

Ministry of Justice Ordinance No. 666: On 26 July, the Official Gazette of Brazil published a new Ordinance that states the denial of entry, repatriation and summary deportation of a dangerous person who has committed an act in opposition to the principles and objectives guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. However, the ordinance also states that no one shall be barred from entering the country, repatriated or summarily deported for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or political opinion, and that entry into the country shall not be prevented nor shall a person be subjected to repatriation or summarily deported if they are known to be persecuted abroad for political reasons or personal opinions.

Law proposal 1.928/2019: On August 20th, a parliamentary hearing at the Social Affairs Commission in the Senate was discussing changes to the Migration Law (13.445/17). Initially, the proposal debated the concession of temporary visas for migrants for internships and exchange study program purposes, establishing the age of 29 as the maximum age for applicants. However, the final version of the bill proposed was modified to include new restrictive elements, such as restriction to the principle of non-refoulement, and limits to the access of information and duty of carriers to provide the Federal Police with detailed information on passengers.

Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations are working to meet the most basic needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the north of the country. Key areas of intervention for the Brazilian context are the provision of temporary emergency shelter, food and non-food items, and health interventions. In addition, needs assessments were conducted.



1. Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August

Main activities reported in August

Lack of additional space in shelters continues to be a major challenge. An approximate 6,700 Venezuelans are sheltered in Pacaraima and Boa Vista. However, two assessments carried out with the Brazilian army this month identified a total of 3,631 Venezuelans sleeping in the streets or occupying private or public buildings in Boa Vista, including 1,168 minors -- an increase of 300 per cent compared to January. In Pacaraima, there was an estimated 642 Venezuelans, including 102 minors. These assessments have been widely

shared with partners to guide the response. A site profile, which provides a consolidated overview of population statistical data, needs in life-saving sectors, and information on activities and gaps, was prepared for the spontaneous settlement located in the Jockey Club neighborhood of Boa Vista. This site accommodates a total of 664 people, including 279 minors, who are living in precarious conditions with limited access to food, health care, WASH facilities and documentation. Site profiles are being planned for all spontaneous settlements in Boa Vista.

About 1,050 refugees and migrants per night benefited from the secured sleeping area improved last month in the surroundings of the bus station in Boa Vista to alleviate the impact of the rain. This space has allowed refugees and migrants to pitch their tents in a secured area, with access to basic hygiene facilities.

In cooperation with the Municipality of Manaus and the Government of Amazonas and the Army, partners began installation of a secure sleeping area nearby the Bus Station of Manaus to improve the conditions of Venezuelans living in the streets. The new structure will be composed of different tent houses for families, single men and single women. The army and partners already provided individual tents and mattresses, respectively.

In coordination with the armed forces, partners conducted a capacity assessment of the indigenous Janokoida shelter in Pacaraima after the recent improvements to the infrastructure. The report showed that an additional 39 indigenous persons currently living in the streets could be accommodated. Technical support was also provided to expand the capacity of other shelters in the city. In Belém, Pará State, a basic set of items including 200 hammocks, drinking fountains, plastic tables and chairs were delivered to an indigenous shelter. This was the first action of this kind in the state.

Food distribution reached an estimated 10,614 refugees and migrants, including those living in the streets (5,788 people) in indigenous communities (634 people) or in precarious accommodations through Roraima State, including food baskets to 4,192 people). Meals, food baskets and parcels containing basic items were distributed throughout the month.

To promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), more than 5,354 male and female condoms and 500 lubricants were distributed in Roraima State, facilitating the right of refugees and migrants to access basic health items and to promote safe sex practices and prevent Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. 151 dignity kits were delivered to women at risk, girls, survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), LGBTI people and people with other specific needs.

In the indigenous shelter in Manaus, the Municipal Health Secretary and partners carried out the second nutritional needs assessment with the participation of 110 Venezuelans living in the area. An action plan will be devised after the publication of the results. Partners conducted an health task force in cooperation with the Municipal Secretaries of Health and Justice, the Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship and the Amazonian Pediatric Society for people living on the streets near the Bus Station in Manaus. A total of 162 medical consultations, 40 tests and 212 vaccines were provided to children, adolescents and adults. The Municipal Secretary of Health is expected to continue to offer this medical assistance over the coming months.

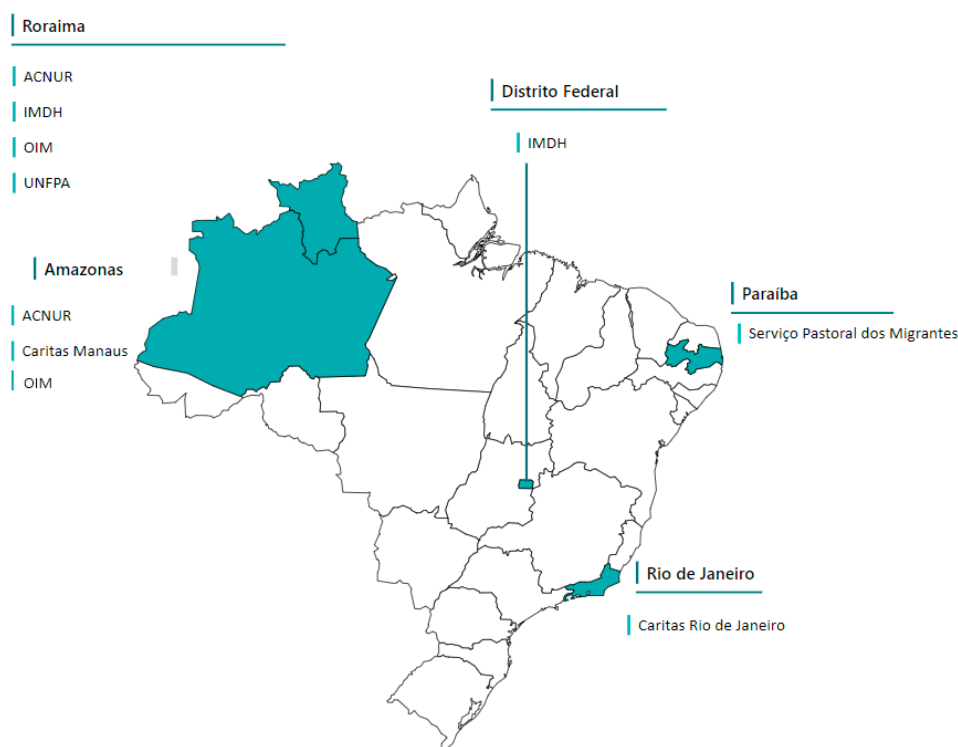
Area of Intervention 2: Protection

Throughout Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations provide protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants through documentation assistance, registration, case management, protection referrals and tailored response for populations with specific needs such as LGBTI, children, persons with disabilities, persons at risk of SGBV, pregnant women and indigenous people.

2. Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August

Main activities reported in August

17,804 Venezuelans refugees and migrants received support in processing documentation, either through asylum (8,471) or residency applications (9,333), in the Documentation Centres in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, as well at the Reference Centre in the Federal University of Roraima, facilitating their access to basic rights and services in Brazil, including health and education. In the documentation centres and at the bus stations, some 5,000 individuals were also provided with information



material on the prevention of human trafficking and labour exploitation.

In Brasilia (Distrito Federal), some 250 people benefitted from information, orientation and pre-documentation assistance by partners and had their access to documentation rights facilitated. In Manaus, partners coordinated effort with the armed forces of the Operação Acolhida, the State Government, the Federal Police and the Ministry of Labour, conducted a documentation Task Force to process refugee protocols and temporary residents for both indigenous and non-indigenous Venezuelans living in shelters or the streets. By the end of August, 167 Venezuelans have received support with their residency applications through the Task Force. In addition, some 250 people received information material on prevention trafficking and labour exploitation. A documentation centre or ‘*posto de triagem*’ will be opened in mid-October to facilitate the registration of a growing number of refugees and migrants in Manaus.

A workshop on Community Based Protection was provided to partners’ staff engaged in community participation in Boa Vista, Roraima State. A total of 28 persons attended the workshop including representatives from civil society organisations. The training covered the basics of CBP (cycle, participation..), an approach which can identify a community’s most serious protection risks, explore their causes and effects, and jointly decide how to prevent and respond to them. It also offered an opportunity for the exchange of best practices among all actors working in and outside shelters as well initiating the analysis of operational challenges on community engagement.

Three protection assessments were conducted in Belém and Santarem, Para State, to support the implementation of community-led activities aimed at improved protection, safety and integration with host communities. In Santarem, the assessed shelter is managed by the municipality and accommodates around 128 indigenous persons from the Warao ethnicity. In Belem, around 250 people live in two shelters: the first one is self-managed by indigenous communities, and the second one is managed by the state.

In the same cities, partners and CONARE organised two seminars to strengthen the asylum network in the region and present the implementation process of SISCONARE, an online system for processing asylum claims. As an estimated 90 per cent of the Indigenous Warao living in Para State are fully dependent on civil society and government support to keep their documentation up-to-date, partners raised their concerns about the implementation of the system, which requires literacy and access to internet. They will continue their advocacy efforts to raise support for the indigenous communities.

Information materials and counselling on Gender-based violence, LGBT rights, health services, social assistance and security services reached 711 people at the Documentation Center in Boa Vista and 529 in Pacaraima. This included the distribution of booklets with life-saving information on GBV, with tangible solutions to improve quality and access to survivor-centered, multi-functional services and referral systems to respond in a timely manner to GBV incidents. Moreover, partners organised informative sessions on the rights and duties of refugees and migrants, support networks, GBV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) such as HIV. It is estimated that 1,900 Venezuelans participated.

Area of Intervention 3: Socio-Economic and Cultural Integration

UN Agencies and civil society organizations continued to promote socio-economic and cultural integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants throughout Brazil through voluntary relocation, labour insertion, training, Portuguese language classes and school enrolment, as well cash-based interventions.

3. Actors by sector who reported through activity.info in August



Main activities reported in August

In August, a total of 1,040 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily directly relocated from Roraima State to other parts of Brazil through family and social reunification (473 individuals), were matched with employment (112 individuals), or were received in shelters managed by civil society or municipalities (455 individuals). Among these,

706 flew on planes operated by the Brazilian Armed Forces and 334 received flight tickets on commercial airlines by partners. A total of 13,088 people have been relocated since the beginning of the operation in April 2018.

To facilitate and lower the costs of the relocation of refugees and migrants from Roraima State, which transit-wise is poorly connected to the rest of the country, the Operação Acolhida decided to open a transit shelter in Manaus, capital of the neighbouring state Amazonas. The itinerary consists of the following: 1. People are transported by bus from Boa Vista to Manaus 2. In the centre, they are provided with basic assistance such as food and shelter for up to three days. 3. Subsequently, they fly to their city of destination. An estimated 1,200 people were relocated from Manaus to (where?) in August.

Thirty nine pre-paid cards were delivered to support families and individuals to rebuild their lives under the employment-based modality of interiorization. This cash grant aims to help beneficiaries sustain themselves in the first month in their new city, before receiving their first salary. In August, a total of BRL 132,000 (equivalent to USD 32,477) was delivered through implementation of this cash-based intervention, reaching 447 individuals (approx. 152 households).

Partners from civil society provided overall support to the interiorization operation. As part of the Pana programme, some 390 refugees and migrants were accommodated in rented houses in six different states, mostly in the South of the country, and received core relief items such as food supply, hygiene kits, sanitary items, kitchen utensils and clothes. With the goal of increasing the self-reliance and integration of Venezuelans, the shelters offer comprehensive services such as psychological support, legal assistance and Portuguese language classes. The refugees and migrants stay in these shelters until their integration into the local labour market (on average between three to five months).

In the states of Amazonas and Roraima, partners organised vocational trainings and Portuguese language classes. This month, two groups of refugees and migrants graduated from professional courses offered by the Amazonas Centre of Technological Education. In Brasilia, the services provided by partners include counselling for refugees and migrants, individualized monitoring and referrals to job vacancies and vocational courses through conversation circles, information on revalidation of diplomas, awareness raising of potential employers and intermediation for job vacancies, and support for self-employed entrepreneurs. More than 100 people were reached in the capital.

Through the Women's Empowerment HUB (WEB), and in partnership with the private sector, industry associations, and public organizations, partners organised lectures, courses and other activities to the benefit of approximately 89 women. These activities organised in Roraima State included financial education, small business entrepreneurship, cooking classes, courses on product development, pricing, entrepreneurship and basic concepts of economics.

In order to promote social and economic integration opportunities in Roraima, the Integrated Center for Sustainable Development Studies and Programs (CIEDS), a Brazilian civil society organisation, organised the "Inspira Boa Vista" on 3-4 August. The event, which brought together more than 60 inclusive economic actors, was a collaborative effort between civil society organisations, the public and private sector, and UN agencies designed to inspire refugees, migrants and Brazilians to start their own businesses in the region. The conference/initiative offered workshops and lectures focused on income generation, financial planning, and collaborative and digital economy.

In cooperation with the municipality of Porto Alegre, Rio do Grande do Sul State, and the Municipal Secretariat for Social Development and Sport, partners organised a workshop on local integration of refugees and migrants for civil society organisations and other actors working in this arena on 6 August. Participants discussed how to improve the delivery of services such as health, education, safety and employment to refugees and migrants. The day after, the municipality of Esteio, Rio do Grande do Sul State, organised a public forum debate on the local integration of refugees and migrants and the challenges faced by host communities. The event brought together more than 270 participants including university students, public officials and the general public. Esteio and Porto Alegre are among the municipalities that receive the largest number of Venezuelans through the relocation process.

On 6 August, the Fund for Social Promotion, a public entity registered 15 Venezuelans to participate in a micro-credit programme. Each participant will be provided with BRL 2,000 to develop their own entrepreneurial activities. Partners,

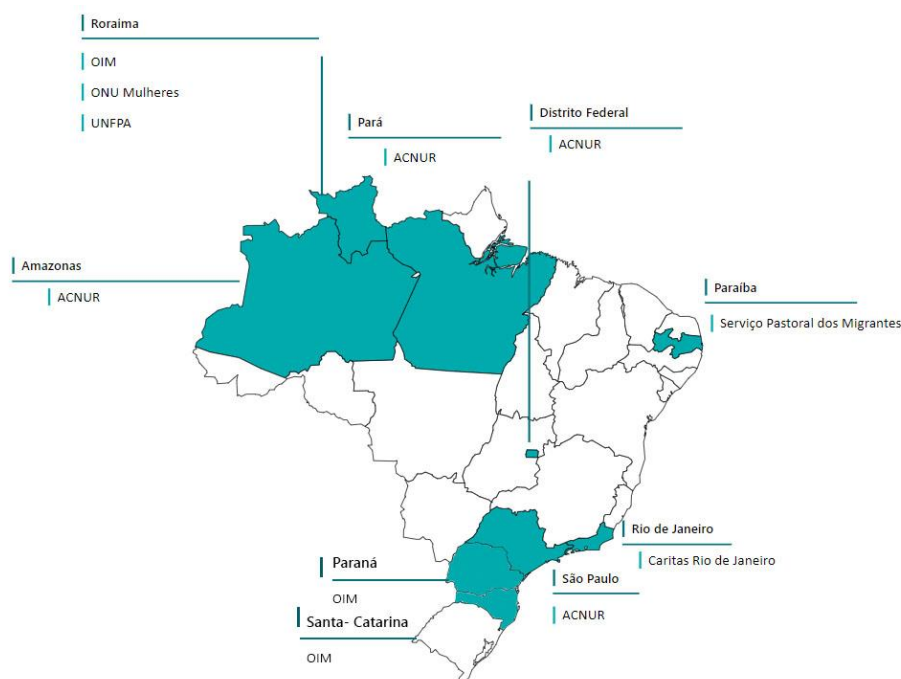
which have advocated for the local integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Manaus, provided support with the registration process (to receive their micro-credit packages?).

Sixty-seven Venezuelans participated in an event on degree and diploma recognition organised by partners in São Paulo between 12 and 14 August. Degree recognition is crucial for refugee and migrant integration, as it allows further access to education and to the labour market. Article 14 of the Ministry of Education Normative Decree No. 22, of December 2016, stipulates that persons recognized as refugees by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) are entitled to an easier validation process. Instead of presenting the documents, the person will have the right to take an exam in which his/her knowledge and skills in his/her respective area of education will be tested.

On 18 August, the municipal Secretary of Development, Labour and Entrepreneurship, together with platform partners and UN Global Compact held an event to mobilise the private sector in support of the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants in São Paulo. Around 60 representatives of different companies from various sectors, including agribusiness and financial institutions, were present and encouraged to join efforts to better respond to the present context. While private companies can play a central role in assisting Venezuelans, most of them lack information about the hiring process. To address this issue, discussions were held to debunk myths on refugees and migrants.

Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the capacity of host government

In Brazil, To strengthen host government capacities in the coordination of response, UN Agencies and civil society organizations carry out awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy to improve the quality of response for Venezuelans refugees and migrants, to ensure their rights are respected and to promote their access to services and opportunities, with particular attention to specific needs populations.



4 Actors by AOI who reported through activity.info in August

Main activities reported in August

Partners continued to provide technical support to local governments and civil society, mapping specific protection needs, and disseminating information to strengthen community resilience on the need to equip Venezuelans with key information about their rights, such as how to access health and social protection services as per Brazilian law. Three workshops in

Boa Vista and one in Pacaraima were held with local communities, local health service providers, NGOs and UN agencies, providing training in Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), HIV/IST care, maternal and family health to 144 personnel. In addition, two trainings on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) were held for a total of 118 members of the army participating in the Operação Acolhida. During these trainings, the prevention of human trafficking was also largely discussed.

On 8 August, partners organized a workshop together with the Ministry of Citizenship at the 2019 National Meeting of Municipal Managers of Social Assistance (CONGEMAS). During the occasion, they launched a Technical Note directed

to municipalities receiving spontaneous arrivals of Venezuelans, providing step-by-step guidance on how to respond to the influx. This three day national meeting gathered almost 2,000 participants from different municipalities, providing a unique opportunity for outreach activities. More than 7,000 flyers and booklets were distributed, including the original text of the Technical Note.

On 8 August, partners participated in the seminar titled “Human Refugees” organized by the Commercial Social Service Institute (SESC) São Paulo in partnership with the Regional Board of Education and Municipal Secretary of Education on the education of refugee youth. Eighty-five local teachers attended the event, which is part of a larger initiative to raise awareness amongst public school teachers on refugee issues and discuss integration in the school environment.

On 19, 21 and 23 August, partners participated in an event called “Network to protect migrants and confront human trafficking”, organised by the Secretariat of Social Development and Federal Road Police, in three cities of Santa Catarina State. The event’s objective was to discuss strategies to combat human trafficking in a region that received one of the largest number of Venezuelans relocated from Roraima State, and to increase the institutional capacity to respond to this influx. A total of 180 people participated, including public officials. On 24 August, partners organised a workshop in Foz do Iguaçu, located at the border with Argentina and Paraguay, to present and discuss the referral flow for victims of human trafficking.

On 28 August, partners carried out a training for 20 education professionals in cooperation with the Training of Education Professionals of Roraima. The training covered issues such as Refugee law and access to education for asylum seekers and refugees in Brazil. It was also an opportunity for partners to present their response for Venezuelans in Roraima.

COORDINATION

Coordination Working Group (WG) – Coordinators went to Boa Vista and Manaus to meet with local partners, inform them about the revised TORs of the Platform, and strengthen the links and communication between Brasilia-based and field-based staff. On 22 August, the first workshop was organised to prepare partners for the preparation of the RMRP 2020 and present the new structure of the Platform based on technical sectors vis-à-vis a humanitarian cluster approach. Over the course of the workshop, sectors and their respective agency leaders were defined, and preliminary indicators were discussed for the activities implemented in each sector.

Communication WG – The WG approved the latest necessary changes and adjustments to the Brazilian section of the R4V page, which is scheduled to be launched during the second week of September. Two communication products were also suggested to be part of the RMRP 2020: the second and third phase of the anti-xenophobia campaign (specifically taking into account the needs of women and the elderly), and an informative booklet on human rights for refugees and migrants.

Information Management WG – The WG briefed partners on the steps and timeline of the preparation of the RMRP 2020 and started to prepare the Secondary Data Review (SDR), methodology for People in Need (PIN), targeted population, and projections of incoming Venezuelan populations (refugees and migrants) until the end of 2020.

Protection WG – In August, the fourth Protection WG meeting was held to address protection risks to internal relocation. It was decided that protection assessments would be conducted by partners working with relocated people. Also this month, a new national Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) task force was created as a technical/expert level sub-mechanism. Constituted for a period of six months, the task force aims to produce standardized documents and guidelines on SGBV to be applied in the Brazilian context.

Communication with Communities- Task Force – A task force on Communication with Communities was created on 26 July. Communication with Communities (CwC) and Communication for Development (C4D) are strategies designed to engage, inform and impact behaviours of affected communities through effective, inclusive and consistent targeted

communication, all critical for strengthening the response of UN agencies and civil society organisations. In Brazil, the focus of CwC/C4D will have the following objectives:

- 1- Identify the information needs of affected communities, their preferred channels of communication, and the sources of information on which they rely;
- 2- Develop and use different channels of communication, including interpersonal communication, to reach refugees and migrants, as well as host communities.
- 3- Ensure that affected communities receive timely and accurate information;
- 4- Provide information that responds to the needs of specific vulnerable groups, such as children and adolescents, and are culturally appropriate for indigenous communities.

PLATFORM PARTNERS

| ADRA- Adventist Development and Relief Agency | Antonio Vieira Association - Jesuits of Brazil | ASBRAD Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth | Cáritas Brasileira | Cáritas Rio de Janeiro | Cáritas São Paulo | CMDH Roraima Centre for Migration and Human Rights | Félix Guattari Institute | IMDH Institute for Migration and Human Rights | IOM | Pastoral Service of Migrants | SEFRAS Franciscan Solidarity Association | SOS Children's Villages of Brazil | UNAIDS | UNDP | UNEP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | UNWOMEN | World Vision

CONTRIBUTIONS

Partners in the response are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds.

Austria | Brazil | CERF | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | HolySee | Italy | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Private donors | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

For more information, please contact:

Mickael Deprez, RMRP Coordinator, **IOM**, mi.deprez@iom.int, +55 11 94108 7857

Marta d'Agosto, RMRP Coordinator, **UNHCR**, dagosto@unhcr.org, +55 61 99680 4413